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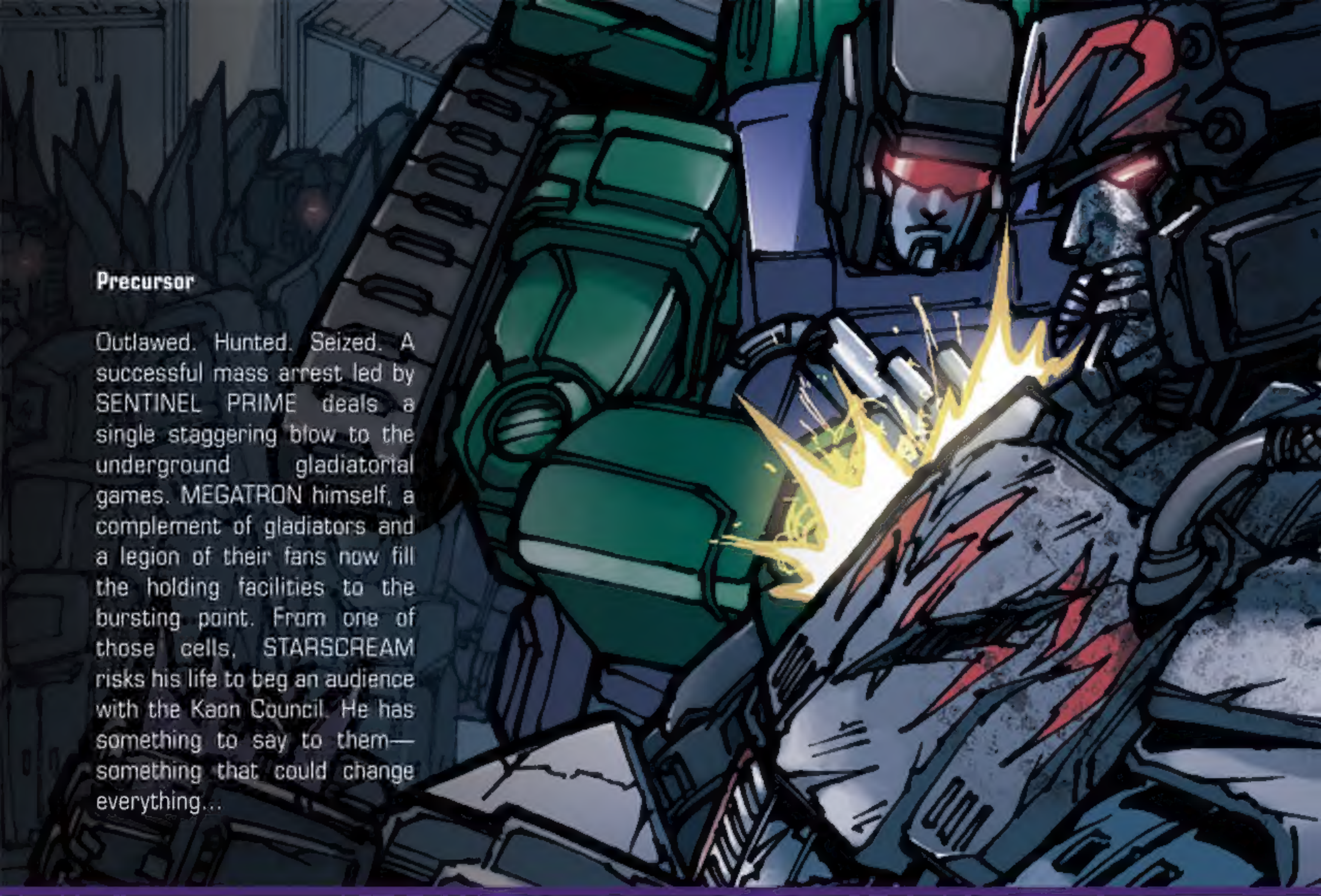
THE TRANSFORMERS MEGATRON ORIGIN



Precursor

Outlawed. Hunted. Seized. A successful mass arrest led by SENTINEL PRIME deals a single staggering blow to the underground gladiatorial games. MEGATRON himself, a complement of gladiators and a legion of their fans now fill the holding facilities to the bursting point. From one of those cells, STARSCREAM risks his life to beg an audience with the Kaon Council. He has something to say to them—something that could change everything...

THE TRANSFORMERS: MEGATRON ORIGIN

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KAON SECURITY HEADQUARTERS.

PRISON FACILITIES.

300% CAPACITY.

NICE FRIENDS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.

THEY'RE NOT YOUR FRIENDS ANYMORE.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY TO THE COUNCIL.

LET THIS SPECIAL HEARING OF THE KAON COUNCIL BE MARKED AS IN COMMENCEMENT. PRISONER STARSCREAM, I AM REQUIRED TO LIST YOUR CHARGES AS FOLLOWS...

KAON COUNCIL HEARING. EMERGENCY SESSION.

...ASSAULT, MURDER, ARMED ROBBERY, DESTRUCTION OF STATE PROPERTY, INCITING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, EXTORTION, KIDNAPPING, RECEIVING AND SELLING STOLEN GOODS, PASSING COUNTERFEIT FUNDS...

...FIRING UPON A STATE SENATOR, MULTIPLE COUNTS OF ATTACKS ON STATE OFFICERS AND STATE PROPERTY, SUPPLYING KNOWN CRIMINALS WITH ILLEGAL WEAPONRY, VEHICLE THEFT, AND MISREPRESENTING YOURSELF AS A STATE OFFICIAL.

HEH.

NOBODY'S PERFECT.

PRISONER, YOU RISK MUCH COMING TO US.

WHY DID THE PRISONER SEEK AN EARLY HEARING?

I WAS EAGER TO SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVED.

NICE PLACE.

THIS CHAIR HOLDS THE PRISONER IN CONTEMPT! I SUGGEST A MOVEMENT TO EXPEL THE PRISONER AND RETURN HIM TO CONFINEMENT—

HAH, DO YOUR ***EMPTY CHAIRS*** ALSO HOLD ME IN CONTEMPT?

LISTEN UP. I AM HERE FOR A REASON.

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU. FOR ALL OF YOU. FROM ALL OF THOSE IN YOUR CELLS.

THROUGH YOUR OWN INTERESTS YOU CREATED THIS. YOU BROUGHT US HERE. YOU DIDN'T JUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE—YOU MADE IT HAPPEN.

ALL WE DID WAS GIVE IT A BADGE.

OH—

TAKE. HIM. AWAY.

—I DON'T THINK SO.

SECURITY! SECURITY!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO HELP.

THUDOOOM

THUDOOOMMMM

WHAT'S *THAT?*

PHASE TWO FOR US.

THE END FOR YOU.

DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD WAY STARTS WITH THE SELF, EH SENATOR?

CONTINUE WITH THE PLAN, STARSCREAM.

STICK TO THE *PLAN?*

I'LL *GIVE* THAT CRETIN *A PLAN.*

KA-BOOM!

COMM'S OUT.

SOMETHING'S ***WRONG***. SIGNAL THE OTHERS.

OH DESTINY, HOW IT PLEASES YOU TO CARESS A FEW AND MOLEST OTHERS.

IN THE MINES, WE HAD NO IDEA THAT DESTINY MUST BE ***HARNESSED, KICKED*** AND ***RIDDEN*** UNTIL IT TAKES YOU IN THE ***RIGHT DIRECTION...***

"...NOT JUST WHERE YOU ***WANT*** TO GO, BUT WHERE YOU ***FORCE IT.***

KABOOOM!

UNNNGG...

"STARSCREAM— DON'T WASTE TIME! ALL LEVELS. ALL CRIMES.

"OPEN ALL CELLS—FREE ***EVERYONE***. NOT JUST THOSE THAT CAME IN WITH US.

"ALL OF THEM WALK OUT WITH US TO THANK FOR IT.

"TODAY IS THE LAST DAY WE BLOW WITH THE WIND.

"TODAY IS THE DAY WE ***HARNESS KAON.***"

TODAY IS THE DAY ***WE RIDE.***

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, I HOPE.

ONE WEAPON, ONE BADGE.

NOW, MEGATRON— I WATCHED YOUR FIGHTS AND I ALWAYS NOTICED YOU LEADING WITH YOUR RIGHT. IT GOT YOU INTO TROUBLE ON NUMBER 37, WHEN THE—

STARSCREAM, YOUR *POINT*?

WITH *THIS*, YOU CAN MAKE THAT WORK FOR YOU.

HMM. YES.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

HEH... SOMETHING TO MAKE SURE THAT A *FAIR FIGHT* IS THE *OTHER GUY'S PROBLEM*.

KA-THOOOM!

MEGATRON, WE AWAIT YOUR COMMAND.

FALL ON THEM AS PREDATORS DO PREY. SHOW NO MERCY.

EVERYTHING.

ALL OF THIS—

—BURNS.

WAKE UP, CYBERTRON...

...YOUR ERA IS ENDING.

AND THEN I SAID, INVESTMENT PROPERTY— HOW BORING!

HAHAHAH!

YOU HEARD HIM.

I... UH...

...I'M THINKING THAT—

DON'T *THINK.*

JUST *DO IT.*

KEE-TEE

PRIMUS—!

LIFEBOATS— WHERE ARE THE LIFE—

CAN'T GET IT UNDER CONTROL!

WHERE'S THAT *SUPPORT?!*

IT'S LIKE ALL THE *COMM CHANNELS* ARE DOWN. TOTALLY BLO—

—AW SCRAP.

STILL NO GOOD... NOT A SINGLE CHANNEL. DAMN!

JUST TOO MANY CRAZIES. ARE WE EVEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE HERE?

PRIME, WHAT CAN WE DO?

I JUST *REMEMBERED—*

—YOU CAN'T FLY.

UNF!

PRIME, THIS IS OUT OF CONTROL. WE'RE NOT HELPING THIS WAY.

PRIME! WHAT DO WE DO?!

I'M GOING APEX.

HOLD THE LINE.

I'LL BE BACK.

YOU'RE GOING *NOWHERE!*

SENTINEL PRIME REQUESTING CLEARANCE TO APEX FACILITIES.

*CHHK*ESS DENIED. *CHHK*OUNCIL APPROVAL RE*CHHK*ED.

FINE.

THANKS.

THUNK

WHAT HAPPENED?

A MINOR DISAGREEMENT.

I FELT THE TIMING WAS PERFECT FOR ME TO REASSIGN MYSELF TO OUR CAPITAL OF IACON.

THEY FELT I SHOULDN'T BE PERFORMING A LAST-MINUTE REALLOCATION OF THE CITY FUNDING *OR* BACKING UP THEIR PRECIOUS CITY-STATE DATA ARCHIVES TO THIS DATA CUBE.

WE *SETTLED.*

POLITICS. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

AND WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? IRONICALLY, YOU'VE BEEN EXTREMELY HARD TO REACH FOR THE LAST FEW CYCLES.

GLADIATOR ASSIGNMENT—INITIAL COMMITMENT ESTIMATES INADEQUATE.

YOU KNOW, INSTIGATING THE MINING AUTOMATION WAS A BRILLIANT DOVETAIL BETWEEN INSTABILITY, ARMS PRODUCTION AND A NICE LITTLE CUT OF FUTURE MINING PROFITS.

IT WAS WIN-WIN-WIN. THE LENGTHS I GO TO FOR A LITTLE RETURN. A LITTLE INSTABILITY WAS ALL I WAS LOOKING FOR, PLUS A FEW ZEALOTS LATER—AND NOW IT'S GONE TOO FAR.

WITH WHAT I'LL HAVE DOWNLOADED INTO THIS CUBE AND THE CONTACTS I'LL HAVE BEGGING FOR MY TIME IN IACON, I THINK MY IMMINENT RELOCATION MAY WORK OUT TO LESS THAN A CHORE.

TAKE IT FROM ME, WHEN I SAW THIS TROUBLE BREWING IN KAON—

—I KNEW THINGS WERE GOING TO BE JUST FINE!

INSTABILITY IS JUST A DIFFERENT WORD FOR OPPORTUNITY, HMM?

CONFIRMED.

WHAT—

SHRRAAKK!

WHAT... ARE... YOU... DOING?!

S TUAT ON— WAR

RESOURCES— LIMITED.

OPTIMAL SOLUTION— REPURPOSE VALUABLE RESOURCE.

—I SAID FIND ME THE *FRONTLINE*—

—FIND ME *ANY* LINE—

—IT'S *CHAOS* OUT THERE, IT'S—

FALL BACK NOW!

GET OUT OF—

BOOOOOM

FAN OUT.

FIND WHAT AND WHERE THAT'S COMING FROM.

WHAT IS... WHAT IS THAT?

"CHHK" BIG CHIEF, THIS "CHHK" OPTIC SCOUT. "CHHK" WE HAVE "CHHK" NEW PLAYMATE FOR YOU, OV-"CHHK"

AWAITING UPLOAD, OPTIC.

COME OUT, PRIME!

I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! COME OUT AND F GHT!

FACE ME LIKE A GLADIATOR!

!
SCCCHHHHK!
SCCCHHHHK!

BOOST RESERVE POWER TO COMM SYSTEM AND REPEAT-TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE—

RESISTANCE CENTER LINE IS BROKEN—ANYONE RECEIVING, RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO ALL CHANNELS AND ISSUE A RALLY. THIS IS WHERE WE PUSH—HARD. I AM SPEARPOINT—

—REPEAT, APEX-EQUIPPED UNIT IS THE SPEARPOINT. RALLY ON ME.

APEX SYSTEMS—REINITIALIZE COMBAT ROUTINES AND EXECUTE TARGET SEARCH.

BROADCAST TO OPTIC TEAM LEAD, FRESH TARGETS A PRIORITY.

OPTIC LEAD, DO YOU COPY? I SAID FRESH TARGETS A PRIORITY.

OPTIC LEAD?

...HOUND?

PRRIIIME!
GRAHHH!
I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT WE ONLY GAIN *WISDOM* THROUGH *SUFFERING*—
—AND TONIGHT I INTEND TO MAKE YOU *VERY WISE*.
IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THINGS SO MUCH, MEGATRON— WHY DON'T YOU START WITH YOURSELF?
CHANGE? OH, HOW I'VE CHANGED.
THE JOURNEY I'VE BEEN ON... I SEE THROUGH WISER OPTICS NOW. WISE ENOUGH TO SEE THAT THIS IS THE *TWILIGHT* OF YOUR WAYS—

—AND THE *DAWN* OF MINE!

YOUR WAYS, *CRIMINAL*? AND WHEN YOU'VE CROSSED THE PLANET WITH YOUR LITTLE GANG OF *THUGS*. WHAT WILL YOU DO THEN?

BAM!

I WILL CREATE DESOLATION— AND CALL IT *PEACE!*

CHOK!

THIS INSURRECTION— TREACHERY—

—THE WORST DECEPT—

THAT'S RIGHT, PRIME. WE'RE EVERYTHING YOU SAID—

—AND WORSE!

THOOOOOM!

I DON'T CARE WHY YOU FIGHT TO PROTECT THESE PEOPLE, THIS PLACE, THE OLD WAY. IT MUST CHANGE. *I WILL MAKE IT CHANGE.*

AND WHOEVER IS IN MY PATH—

—PRIMUS HELP THEM!

UHHH...

I DON'T THINK SO, *SENTINEL PRIME.*

DOESN'T... *"CHK"* MATT... TER... *"GLKUK"* ...DON'T ...MAT-R... *"SKK"*... OTHERS... *"SCHK"*... COME...

IT'LL MATTER WHEN THEY SEE WHAT I'VE *DONE TO YOU.*

THE BOOSTING WORKED—SIR, WE'RE THROUGH TO *IACON*.

PLEASE CONF*CHHT*, DO YOU *CHHHT* THAT BACKUP, OVER?

INCOMING!

REPORT! ANYONE SEE—

—OH.

PRIME?

...IT'S NO GOOD.

HE ALIVE?

WE'RE *DONE* HERE.

NEGATIVE ON BACKUP, IACON. REDEPLOY AS AN EVAC TEAM.

THAT'S IT FOR KAON. WE'RE PULLING OUT.

UPDATE—BOOSTED SECURITY FORCE TRANSMISSIONS INDICATE IMMEDIATE RELOCATION OF FIELD ASSETS.

THE ENEMY FLEES.

COMMANDER MEGATRON. THEY WEAR YOUR BADGE. THEY FIGHT FOR YOU.

YOU WIELD AN ARMY—YOU HOLD A CITY—WHAT NEXT?

NEXT, SOUNDWAVE? CHOICES...

WE ARE SPOILED FOR CHOICE BUT ONE. CYBERTRONIAN BY BIRTH. "DECEPTICON" BY CHOICE.

YOU ASK WHAT NEXT?

I HAVE A FEW IDEAS...

END.